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housework, they have on a plain, neat house dress (usually stripes), and when on the street a tasteful street garb. One or two pretty dresses, for the occasional reception or theatre, usually complete the wardrobe. One nurse took from her trunk some old silk which already had done considerable service, and sat down to the sewing-machine. With the outlay of a few dollars, by evening a handsome silk petticoat was shown. She, like the New York nurse, has undoubtedly often been criticised for extravagance.

There are many nurses who could take *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, yet who do not; but there are many who do not take it because of the grim necessity they are under to count the pennies, and they will pay half with some one else. I believe there are at least three readers to one subscriber. Some time ago I read an article in *Harper's Magazine* on the trained nurse, written by a clergyman. He spoke of her as a fine type of womanhood, brave, self-reliant, and always ready to help her neighbor. Another article in as good a magazine (I have forgotten which) spoke of their courage. The writer of this article says that fear is almost unknown among physicians or trained nurses. After reading so much criticism, it gave me pleasure to read these articles. And now, dear editor, is it not just as well when criticising, to do a little praising? All of us have faults, and many of us very serious ones, but we are not a bundle of faults and nothing else.

HARRIET E. SIGSBEE,  
Salida, Col.

[We have much sympathy with this writer, and we want to assure her that we do not for a moment lose sight of that splendid group of private nurses who go steadily on year after year giving skilled, conscientious, womanly service to the multitude. It is because of the injustice to these women that we lend our pages so frequently to condemnation of those nurses whose conduct brings criticism to all members of the great nursing body. The mercenary, heedless, immoral type of woman in the ranks must be made to feel the disapproval of every reputable member of the nursing profession.—ED.]

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### ANOTHER SUGGESTION FOR THE SLIDING SCALE

DEAR EDITOR: I am much interested in the comments which appear from time to time in *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, with reference to caring for "the great middle class."

Would it be too much to expect our graduates to work for fifteen dollars a week, or, if need be, less, for the first year or two after they leave the hospital? Or at least they might be willing to accept less remuneration than the nurse who has stood the fire five, ten, or fifteen years. I

know that these older nurses take cases for what the patient can afford to pay, especially when he or she is some one they know or are interested in, or to accommodate a physician. Yet this still leaves a number of worthy people who cannot employ a first class nurse.

When our medical friends leave their Alma Mater, they are glad to care for patients that the more busy doctors have not the time to attend to. He is a very fortunate young physician who gets important work when he first begins to practice. Should our young nurses in like manner take the less profitable work to begin with, and in that way provide skilled attention for those worthy people who cannot possibly pay twenty or twenty-five dollars a week, and who usually are so grateful for any assistance rendered them?

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF A SMALL HOSPITAL.

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#### A CORRECTION

DEAR EDITOR: In the November number of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* is an article headed "The Cuban Training Schools." In this article it is stated that all the other schools send their nurses for the last three months of training to Mercedes Hospital, and that they all pass their examinations there.

I wish to say that in the Training School for Nurses connected with Hospital No. 1, Havana, which is the largest in Cuba, having a daily average of five hundred patients, the nurses do not go to any other hospital to complete their training. On the contrary, I have had nurses come here from Cienfuegos, Matanzas, and Puerto Principe, to finish their training and to be examined.

On the 28th of last June I had seven of my own pupils, third year, examined in this hospital.

The final examinations are public, and the Department of Charities provides the building. I ask you to publish this in the December number so as to correct the mistake.

ELIZABETH J. WALKER,  
Superintendent of Nurses, Hospital No. 1, Havana, Cuba.